

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are submitted in response to the first Office action, in an effort to place the application in condition for allowance as hereinafter pointed out.

Applicants herein respectfully submit a complete set of replacement drawing sheets (sheets 1- 3) which replace all of the original drawings.

According to the Office action, all of the claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over the disclosure in U.S. Patent to Conrad et al. of record in view of the disclosures in U.S. Patents to Pinson and Carlson of record. The common basis for such rejections of the claims resides in the disclosure in the Pinson patent of force transfer means as shown in FIG. 10, featuring push rods R1, R2 or RS and peripherally indented cam discs 160, 164, 166 and 168 having different diameters. However the Pinson patent clearly fails to disclose conversion of the drive forces imparted to the push rods into torque applied to the shaft 170 through the cam discs by selective displacement of such push rods along guide paths at an angle to the axis of the shaft 170. The invention as disclosed in the present application therefore patentably distinguishes over the prior art references relied on, on this account.

The foregoing referred to distinction over the prior art references relied on is now emphasized in claim 1, amended without insertion of new matter. Thus amended claim 1 specifies: "positioning means--for displacement thereof (actuator means) relative to said rotational axis to vary the conversion of the drive forces--". The allowance of amended claim 1 is therefore in order together with claims 2-8 dependent therefrom.

New claims 9 and 10 now submitted also distinguish over the prior art references of record in a patentable sense. Thus claim 9 specifies: "track means for establishing guide paths at an angle to the rotor axis; and positioning means--for displacement thereof (actuators) along the

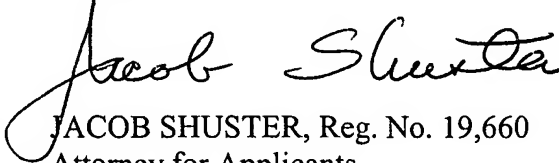
Appln. No. 10/807,580

Amendment in Reply to the Office action dated May 13, 2005

guide paths to different positions relative to the force transfer means at which the drive forces undergo said conversion--", while claim 10 dependent from claim 9 specifies: "--indented peripheries engaged by the actuators at said different positions along the guide paths". Based on the latter quoted recitations of claims 9 and 10, an allowance thereof is expected.

In view of the foregoing, an allowance of the application is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWING

The replacement sheets, appended hereto, now submitted corrects certain labeling errors.

FIG. 2 labeling of the actuator device 30.

FIG. 4 modification so as to extend the electrical connection from phase timing control 66 to the position adjustment devices 50 and the addition of the connection to the actuator devices 30 of the torque drive assembly 24. Also the erroneous labeling of the electromagnetic coil 62 is deleted.